



PENDLE HILL
LANDSCAPE
PARTNERSHIP



INTRODUCTION

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership was a 4 year programme funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and hosted by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The partnership included the Dry Stone Walling Association, Mid Pennine Arts, In-Situ, and Ribble Rivers Trust and delivered 15 projects during 2018-22, to a cash value of over £2.6 million

www.pendlehillproject.com



mpa



in-situ

FINAL EVALUATION SUMMARY

This document is a summary of the achievements and key findings delivered through the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme and a shortened version of the full evaluation. The emphasis of this document is on demonstrating the impact delivered through the Scheme that meets the outputs and outcomes on behalf of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the main funder of the Scheme. Further detail and information about any of the achievements can be found in the accompanying final evaluation report. A copy of the full evaluation can be downloaded from www.pendlehillproject.com

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SUMMARY: PENDLE HILL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP KEY FINDINGS

An exemplar of partners working together to improve the natural and cultural heritage of Pendle Hill that can demonstrate achievements that are bigger, better and more joined up.

Demonstrating success ~ delivering an integrated programme of project activity

For the last fifteen years, the Countryside Training Partnership has been lucky enough to work with over 30 different Landscape Partnerships at different stages of development and delivery throughout the United Kingdom. From the observations, discussions and assessment of the information presented within this evaluation, the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme demonstrates one of the best, if not the best, examples of a group of partners working together in a holistic, interdependent way to deliver a programme of activity that can truly demonstrate, “the whole scheme being greater than the sum of the individual parts.”

There have been a number of different elements that have contributed to this conclusion. The mid-term review identified the following key successes:

- **The wonderful Landscape Partnership team** ~ the energy, enthusiasm and dynamism of the team that takes a very inclusive approach and turns challenges into opportunities.

“The enthusiasm of the team has created a spiders web of interest, already we have found out more than we thought we would”
- **Integrated activity with partners working closely together** ~ the Interaction across the programme and between the projects is a notable feature of the PHLP giving a holistic approach to project delivery, with an impressive range of partners including key landowners who are committed to the Scheme.

- **Extensive participation and engagement** ~ that draws together people from both sides of the hill and reaches diverse local communities, including areas of high deprivation.
- **A creative approach** collecting a rich source of materials and local stories ~ A unique feature of PHLP is the creative approach to project delivery that has been adopted by the team and partners that has been a catalyst for the collection of a varied source of materials and stories that have helped introduce more people to the landscape.

Further conversations and strengths identified through the final evaluation included:

- **A partnership that created the right culture** ~ Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership was a genuine community of partners that wanted to work collaboratively, that was flexible enough and willing to respond to ambiguity and change as this arose. Project activity was not separated into different silos but allowed to merge between the different theme areas. This strength was helped by a thorough development phase and the identification of the “Threads theme” facilitated through the Gatherings and Interpretation activity that helped bring everything together. The leadership provided by the programme

team and in particular the dedicated and creative approach of the Scheme Manager should be acknowledged in helping to achieve the many programme successes.

- **Focussing on a clear landscape feature** ~ The Landscape Partnership was able to use Pendle Hill and all of its heritage assets to deliver an integrated programme that helped to bring the many different elements together. Building activity around an outlier location of the Forest of BowlandAONB and the administrative split between Pendle Borough Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council helped give a focus to this unique and special landscape area. The size of the Landscape Partnership at 124 km2 helped deliver an “intensity of impact” across the whole Scheme area.
- **Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership branding** ~ The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme was helped through the development of a strong brand and identity that helped to capture the geography of the landscape area, beginning to connect the two sides of the hill and promoting the different projects being delivered by the partnership. Having a set of branding guidelines should be seen as an essential requirement for all future landscape scale and partnership type activity.

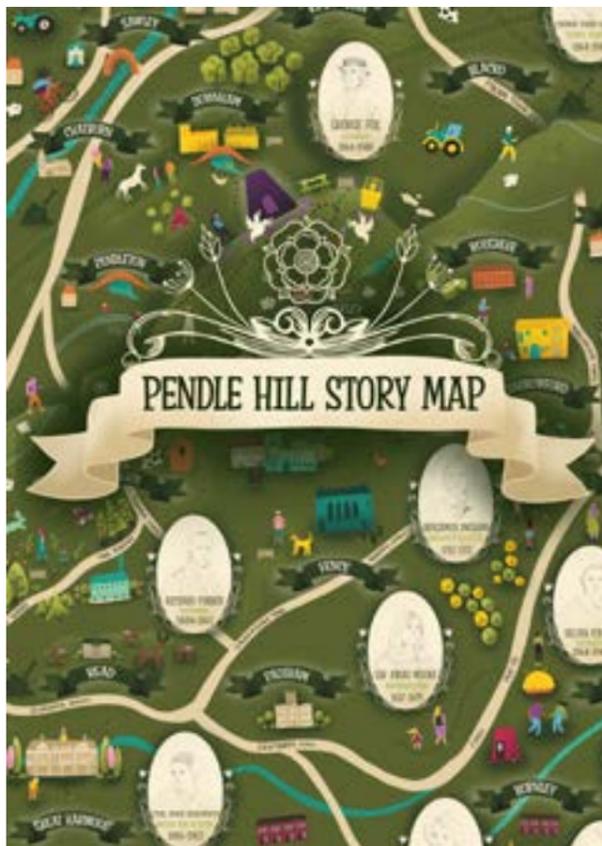
A VERY SUCCESSFUL SCHEME THAT MET AND EXCEEDED INTENDED OUTPUTS

The information collected and presented within the evaluation demonstrates that the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership has been successful in delivering significant natural and cultural heritage improvements within the programme area.

The intended outputs have been achieved for all the areas of activity that have been reviewed with any variations agreed and incorporated into a revised programme of delivery.

Selected highlights of the outputs achieved by the scheme as a whole are:

- **For landscape restoration** ~ the improvements to 8.3 km of traditional boundaries, exceeding original intentions by nearly 40% with conservation and nature recovery activity over 53 hectares to help improve the threatened and declining peatland and woodland landscape.
- **For local engagement and participation** ~ the considerable number of people outputs and goals achieved through the participation, training and volunteer programmes. The delivery of a creative awareness and engagement programme at a community level has been the most effective and impressive part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership as demonstrated by the 28,673 people participating in the 920 different events and learning activities throughout the scheme, the delivery of 159 training and skills workshops benefitting 922 participants, along with recruiting and engaging volunteers to contribute 2,060 days or 10 full time working years.



Pendle Hill Story Map ~ October 2022

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROJECT CLOSURE REPORTS

Project completion reports have been produced for each project and provided much of the quantitative and qualitative information contained within the final evaluation document. The templates have been a successful model to complete the project management cycle and proved to be a helpful way of capturing impact to leave a further legacy in terms of recording individual project achievements. Significant outcomes have

been delivered particularly in relation to impacts on people and communities through increasing awareness and engagement with the local natural and cultural heritage. It is recommended that by the end of the Landscape Partnership Scheme, all the closure reports are uploaded onto the project website to help tell the story of what has been delivered as well as creating an additional digital legacy.

MANY LESSONS LEARNED

The project completion reports contain a rich source of lessons learned, with signposts and evidence to help support future project activity and funding applications. Information collected from these reports highlighted the many different complex elements of successful project management and delivery and included:

- Being realistic with resources and timetable
- Managing risk and uncertainty with a flexible approach to project management
- Having a clear project scope and relevant permissions
- Communication
- Partnership working to build relationships and support local communities
- Changing external policy environment
- Working from a dedicated location
- The impact of the coronavirus pandemic

GATHERING UP AND APPRECIATING WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership has not been afraid to celebrate success with a variety of events held throughout the duration of the Scheme. The Final Gathering event in October 2022, brought together participating artists, conservationists, academics, community leaders and many others who have been involved in the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, to celebrate all that has been achieved over the past four and a half years. This sharing of best practice experience and networking between partners is another exemplar that should be applied to other larger scale partnership funded programmes.

The evaluation report has built on the Final Gathering and attempts to bring together and present the achievement and impact of all project activities in

one place. It is recommended that time is taken by staff within the Forest of Bowland AONB and project partners to reflect and appreciate what has actually been achieved looking at the scheme as a whole, the lessons learnt, evaluation observations and how these can be applied to the development of further partnership projects.

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme funded by the National Lottery's Heritage Fund (NLHF) has delivered a creative range of heritage activity over 4¹/₂ years between April 2018 and October 2022. The project delivery period has been extended by 9 months from the intended finish due to the many restrictions faced by society from the coronavirus pandemic from March 2020 onwards.



From information collected throughout the project period and presented in this evaluation the Pendle Landscape Partnership has delivered and can celebrate the following key achievements:

- 15 projects delivering a £2.5 million programme within the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership area
- 28,673 participants engaged through 920 activities, talks, walks and events
- 3,360 school children involved in education and learning activity
- 2,060 days or 10 full working years from 1,185 volunteers
- 922 people benefitting from 159 training and skills workshops
- Engaging with 141 local businesses, 97 community groups and 57 schools
- Creation of 123 new interpretation features and digital products created to increase understanding and awareness
- 57 artists' commissions to enhance connectivity between projects and raise awareness of the heritage of Pendle Hill
- 53 ha of biodiversity and landscape areas have been enhanced and maintained with 8.3 km of traditional boundaries restored
- 42 technical reports and plans to support the strategic development of natural and cultural heritage within the area
- 31 farms supported for agri-environment funding to improve the natural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape
- Opportunities for 27 trainees to gain experience and move on to further employment within the natural and cultural heritage sector
- 27 new concessionary routes or themed walks created to improve enjoyment and wellbeing
- 9½ km of footpath and access and routes improved and maintained connecting local communities in the area



SUMMARY: DELIVERING AGAINST NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND OUTCOMES

The headline numbers plus individual project outputs and outcomes compiled through the evaluation have been summarised and collated to demonstrate delivery against the nine NLHF programme outcomes.

Certain project activities will have delivered against more than one outcome and not all the evaluation information has been used, but overall the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership can demonstrate a balance of delivery against NLHF outcomes as follows >>

1. HERITAGE WILL BE BETTER MANAGED

For the whole scheme:

- 31 farms supported for agri-environment funding to improve the natural heritage and biodiversity of the landscape

Selected individual project impacts include:

Wild about Pendle Hill ~ 17 Management Plans produced

Pendle WINNS ~ 15ha of woodland managed



“ Being a part of the PHLP has enabled Ribble Rivers Trust to develop a structured and effective woodland delivery process. Being part of a multi-year delivery programme has supported a multi-year pipeline of woodland activity and helped the Trust to become more efficient.”

2. HERITAGE WILL BE IN BETTER CONDITION

For the whole scheme:

- 53 ha of biodiversity and landscape areas have been enhanced and maintained with 8.3 km of traditional boundaries restored
- 22 habitat and wildlife sites managed or restored
- 16 cultural heritage sites or features restored or enhanced

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **Pendle WINNS** ~ 20ha of woodland planted
- **Pendle Hill Summit** ~ 18 hectares of peatland have been restored and will retain the carbon contained within that area far more effectively now.
- **The Gatherings** ~ Visitors to the hill helping contribute to the Peat reseeding. An unexpected chance for people to contribute to improving the environment, a simple gesture, collectively making a big difference.



3. HERITAGE WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND RECORDED

For the whole scheme:

- 446 volunteers were trained in research and recording skills

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **What's a Hill Worth** ~ The natural capital and ecosystem services mapping has enabled a new and effective way of ensuring heritage is better recorded. The Pen Farm research being the first that identified and valued natural assets and services at a farm scale and fed into the national debate on the Future of Farming post Brexit.
- **Wild About Pendle Hill** ~ When we started this recording project (at Spring Wood) in May 2021 there were 26 observations with a total of 25 species recorded. Currently there are 696 observations of 269 species.
- **Pendle Radicals** ~ The accumulated body of work has made a significant contribution to this outcome. It is reflected in every dimension of the project, from new site interpretation to the project website and other online platforms, the themed walks programme, the podcast series and much more.
- **Community Archaeology** ~ There is a better understanding locally with information submitted for the official Historic Environment Record. More is known about the construction of the Roman Road linking Ribchester to Elslack; and some questions were answered with the excavations at Malkin Tower and Portfield ancient monument



4. PEOPLE WILL HAVE DEVELOPED SKILLS

For the whole scheme:

- 922 people benefitting from 159 training and skills workshops

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **Traditional boundaries** ~ 22 people achieving nationally recognised qualifications in dry stone walling after completing an intensive 10 day training course. Some of these participants are now enjoying dry stone walling as a new career

“Trainees and volunteers have commented on how participating in traditional boundary crafts has increased their wellbeing”

- **Trainees** ~ have supplemented the PHLP delivery team substantially and proved to be incredibly effective. Leanne has gone on to work for Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and Calum has been taken on by In-Situ as a full time member of the team.
- **Working Out of the Ordinary** ~ Ten short films and information booklet to show young people in the Pendle Hill area a range of lesser-known exciting careers, and the idea that ‘working out of the ordinary’ is possible without leaving the local area.



“Whenever a young person in a careers interview mentions that they might like a career involving working outdoors, your resource is my go to choice for helping to inspire and give insight into local opportunities.”

5. PEOPLE WILL HAVE VOLUNTEERED TIME

For the whole scheme:

- 2,060 days or 10 full working years from 1,185 volunteers

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **Community Archaeology** ~ People volunteered to carry out their own projects through two local groups, the Ribble Valley and Pendle Heritage Archaeology Groups, after being involved in the Community Archaeology training and excavations. The Ribble Valley group was set up as a direct result of local volunteers having engaged with this project.
- **Volunteering and Learning** ~ Regular volunteers have since joined other local wildlife groups and conservation volunteer sessions, passing on their skills and knowledge to new people. Volunteers commented on how they discovered green spaces they had never seen and gained access to lesser-known habitats and wild places.

“Volunteering is all about sharing and it makes you feel good, know that you are playing a little part in keeping this history alive. It’s more than just the projects that we are on, it’s about connecting and for all our mental health as well.”



6. PEOPLE WILL HAVE LEARNT ABOUT HERITAGE

For the whole scheme:

- 28,673 participants engaged through 920 activities, talks, walks and events

“What an amazing exhibition... Fantastic setting in Helmshore Mill and textiles work that sparks conversation and thought.”

- 3,360 school children involved in education and learning activity

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **Volunteering and Learning** ~ The school programme was a partnership between The Ernest Cook Trust and Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, offering free opportunities to develop Outdoor Learning in schools. Schools were selected to be engaged either at school grounds or local green spaces or within the Pendle Hill landscape. The themes ranged from tree planting to local history. Other Outdoor Learning opportunities grew from PHLP projects, from the Pendle Radicals Textile Banners with year 10 textile GCSE students to a farm trip with the Country Trust.



“Through our involvement with the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership we have committed to Nature Friendly Schools that means every child has at least ½ day of outdoor learning each week.”



7. FOR COMMUNITIES, THE LOCAL AREA WILL BE BETTER TO WORK, LIVE OR VISIT

For the whole scheme:

- 27 new concessionary routes or themed walks created to improve enjoyment and wellbeing
- 9½ km of footpath and access and routes improved and maintained connecting local communities in the area

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **Access for All** ~ An extra 3½ km of access routes, including a new concessionary agreement for tramper use at Sabden, Churn Clough Reservoir. 19 new outdoor active routes being made available on the Forest of Bowland website to download and follow, giving visitors to the area a much wider choice of both easy and harder routes to follow

- **Volunteering and Learning** ~ The John Muir Family Discovery Award. Working over the six weeks of the summer holidays during the 2020 pandemic, 60 families actively signed up to the weekly newsletter, and 20 families completed the 25 hours award. Feedback from families included comments about how much the whole family had learnt through the content provided and activities encouraged; to how it offered 'real life learning' after home schooling.
- **The Gatherings** ~ programme integrated arts practice into various PHLP project strands such as; Archaeology, Interpretation, High Nature Value, Radicals, Traditional Boundaries, Woodlands, and the Pendle Hill Summit project. Underlying the programme was community engagement and increasing awareness and access to the Pendle Hill Landscape through a creative practice that illuminated the project strands in different ways.
- **72 Seasons** ~ has helped people feel better, and has been proved to work with a range of people - even during a pandemic. At its heart, it is a way to get back in touch with nature that feels enjoyable to take part in and almost incidentally has many health and wellbeing benefits and encouraged people to be more active. Seekers felt more connection to each other and to nature itself.
- **People Enjoying Nature** ~ We saw individuals grow in confidence, interest in their surroundings, personal fitness, and social connections as a result of their being part of PEN. The group bonds well and we often saw people supporting each other, both during the sessions and in between times.

“ Lots of participants told me how they have learnt a lot about nature, landscape and heritage and how they enjoy passing this information onto their family and friends.

“ I've not been out in to the countryside with my husband for 6 years (since my surgery) but this has opened up my world.”



- **72 Seasons** ~ Deepening participation and engagement with completion of 1,154 surveys about health and well-being and a known reduction of 579 GP visits, saving £17,370 from the NHS on this measure.
- **Interpretation** ~ has improved awareness and promotion of different parts of the Pendle Hill programme area helping to spread impact and activity away from known honeypot sites.
- **The Digital Gatherings** ~ a programme of online community conversations during COVID 19 enabled people to connect through times of extreme isolation. This included supporting local freelancers with paid work and exploring new ways of working during social distancing.
- **Discover Pendle Hill** ~ Through the Sense of Place work tourism businesses are more engaged with the natural and cultural heritage of the area. This activity is more integrated in their marketing and communications and these messages are being transposed to a wider visitor- facing audience.
- **Pendle Hill Fund** ~ 21 grants given and in total 65 groups were supported, with £90K of grants. Over £60K of match funding was levered in addition making a total investment of £150K in local community areas.



8. FOR COMMUNITIES, NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS WILL BE REDUCED

Selected individual project impacts include:

The Gatherings ~ One of the greatest achievements and stand-out projects has been the tangible impact of the work to raise awareness of peatland and contribute directly to its restoration and protection locally within the community.

“The Pendle Peat Pie is a culinary collaboration created to promote awareness of the value of peat and peat restoration on Pendle Hill, opening up a dialogue about cultural traditions and the landscape. It has been highlighted on national television at COP26 and made available on sale through a local eatery.”



Wild About Pendle ~ The Pendle Meadow project has brought 12 meadows into better management with additional plant species established, leading to improved outcomes for nature, climate and engagement with the farmers involved.

The Pendle Hill Farmer Network brought 31 farmers into engagement with the scheme and inspired many individuals to enter stewardship schemes or to undertake wildlife enhancement and access work.

“Absolutely 100% positive experience of being a member of the network, thank you Sarah.”

Pendle Hill Summit ~ The paths and peat are more resilient to people and to the extreme weather conditions the hill experiences, increasingly due to climate change.



9. FOR COMMUNITIES, MORE PEOPLE AND A WIDER RANGE OF PEOPLE WILL HAVE ENGAGED WITH HERITAGE

Selected individual project impacts include:

- **Volunteering and Learning** ~ Little Saplings was a valuable part of peoples' routine in getting outdoors. Mapping of attendee postcodes against the Indices of Multiple Deprivation showed that we worked across the local community range, including under-served families. 11% of attendees came from areas identified as being in the top 10% for deprivation in the UK.
- **The Gatherings** ~ Working with young people through The Summit has supported young people in confidence building and developing creative skills. The community and friendship created through the project encouraged young people from different areas to connect and learn from one another. Over half of the young people we worked with had never visited Pendle Hill, something which we supported several times during our work with the group.
- **72 seasons** ~ working with a group of South Asian women and led by a facilitator from within the same community, we partnered with the DEEN Centre, a local grassroots organisation in Brierfield Brierfield. Many of the women commented on how the project empowered and enabled them to tell their stories and develop their appreciation for the local landscape.
- **Access for All** ~ Pendle Hill became a real draw for people during the lockdowns and visitor numbers spiked around each lockdown. The access work we have done has made the landscape more resilient to these visitor numbers as well as opening up opportunities to a more diverse audience.

“The main benefit to people directly can be seen through the participation on social media. A new and wider audience has engaged with the posts plus events and numbers involved all exceeding those first envisaged.”



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